

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording medium comprising a magnetic layer which is sectioned into a plurality of data areas and a plurality of servo areas for information recording, wherein:

in each of the servo areas, the magnetic layer is separated into a plurality of servo pattern unit parts forming a predetermined servo pattern and a servo pattern peripheral ~~part/servo pattern peripheral parts-part~~ surrounding the servo pattern unit parts; and

each of the servo areas has only a single, integral servo pattern peripheral part;

the servo pattern peripheral part is composed of a single magnetic element;

each of the servo pattern unit parts includes a set of a plurality of servo pattern unit components; and

the servo pattern unit ~~parts-components~~ and the servo pattern peripheral ~~part/parts-part~~ are formed in different sizes so as to have different magnetic properties.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein

the servo pattern unit ~~parts-components~~ and the servo pattern peripheral ~~part/parts-part~~ are formed in different sizes so as to have different coercivities as the magnetic properties.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein

the servo pattern unit ~~parts~~components and the servo pattern peripheral ~~part/parts-part~~ are formed in different sizes so as to have different magnetic anisotropies as the magnetic properties.

10. (Currently Amended) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein

the servo pattern unit ~~parts~~components and the servo pattern peripheral ~~part/parts-part~~ are formed in different sizes so as to have different residual magnetizations as the magnetic properties.

11. (Original) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein
in each of the data areas, the magnetic layer is physically separated into a number of recording elements.

12. (Currently Amended) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 5, wherein

the servo pattern unit ~~parts~~components and the servo pattern peripheral ~~part/parts-part~~ are magnetized in opposite polarities.

13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a magnetic recording medium, comprising:

a magnetic layer forming step of forming a uniform magnetic layer on a substrate; and

a magnetic layer processing step of separating a servo area of the magnetic layer into a plurality of servo pattern unit parts forming a predetermined servo pattern and a

servo pattern peripheral part/servo pattern peripheral parts surrounding the servo pattern unit parts, wherein

in the magnetic layer processing step, the servo pattern unit parts and the servo pattern peripheral part/parts are formed in different sizes so as to have different magnetic properties.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of manufacturing a magnetic recording medium according to claim 16, wherein

in the magnetic layer processing step, a data area of the magnetic layer is separated into a number of recording elements while the recording elements, the servo pattern unit parts, and the servo pattern peripheral part/parts are formed at the same time.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Withdrawn) The method of manufacturing a magnetic recording medium according to claim 16, wherein:

in the magnetic layer processing step, the servo pattern unit parts and the servo pattern peripheral part/parts are formed in different sizes so as to have different coercivities as the magnetic properties; and

the magnetic layer processing step is followed by a first direct-current magnetic field applying step of applying a uniform direct-current magnetic field higher than the coercivities of both the servo pattern unit parts and the servo pattern peripheral part/parts to the magnetic layer, and a second direct-current magnetic field applying step of applying a uniform direct-current magnetic field having an intensity intermediate between the coercivity of the servo pattern unit parts and the coercivity of the servo pattern peripheral part/parts to the magnetic layer in a direction opposite to that of the foregoing direct-current magnetic field.

20. (New) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the servo pattern unit components and the servo pattern peripheral part are made of same material and have essentially same thickness; and the servo pattern unit components are smaller than the servo pattern peripheral part in a plan view showing a flat surface of the medium.

21. (New) A magnetic recording medium comprising a magnetic layer which is sectioned into a plurality of data areas and a plurality of servo areas for information recording, wherein:

in each of the servo areas, the magnetic layer is separated into a plurality of servo pattern unit parts forming a predetermined servo pattern and a servo pattern peripheral part surrounding the servo pattern unit parts;

each of the servo pattern unit parts are composed of a single magnetic element;

the servo pattern peripheral part includes a set of a plurality of servo pattern peripheral elements; and

the servo pattern unit parts and the servo pattern peripheral elements are formed in different sizes so as to have different magnetic properties.

22. (New) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 21, wherein the servo pattern unit parts and the servo pattern peripheral elements are formed in different sizes so as to have different coercivities as the magnetic properties.

23. (New) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 21, wherein the servo pattern unit parts and the servo pattern peripheral elements are formed in different sizes so as to have different magnetic anisotropies as the magnetic properties.
24. (New) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 21, wherein the servo pattern unit parts and the servo pattern peripheral elements are formed in different sizes so as to have different residual magnetizations as the magnetic properties.
25. (New) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 21, wherein in each of the data areas, the magnetic layer is physically separated into a number of recording elements.
26. (New) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 22, wherein the servo pattern unit parts and the servo pattern peripheral elements are magnetized in opposite polarities.
27. (New) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 21, wherein the servo pattern unit parts and the servo pattern peripheral elements are made of same material and have essentially same thickness; and the servo pattern unit parts are larger than the servo pattern peripheral elements in a plan view showing a flat surface of the medium.